

13. (Amended) An apparatus for treating a skin surface, comprising:

A3 a fluid receiving member;

a thermal energy delivery device coupled to the fluid receiving member;

an electrolytic medium positionable in the fluid receiving member, the thermal energy delivery device being positioned in the fluid receiving member to transfer thermal energy to the electrolytic medium, wherein a selected collagen containing tissue site under the skin surface receives the thermal energy and creates a tightening of the skin surface.

10 34. (Amended) A method for tightening skin, comprising:

providing a thermal energy delivery device;

positioning an energy delivery surface of the thermal energy delivery device on an external surface of the skin;

A4 creating a reverse thermal gradient through a surface of the skin while heating underlying collagen containing tissue, wherein a temperature of the external skin surface is lower than a temperature of the underlying collagen containing tissue;

heating the underlying collagen containing tissue without creating a necrosis of living cells in the epidermis;

contracting at least a portion of the collagen containing tissue; and

tightening at least a portion of the surface of the skin.

12 35. (Amended) A method for tightening skin, comprising:

providing a thermal energy delivery device;

positioning an energy delivery surface of the thermal energy delivery device on a external surface of the skin;

A5 heating through a surface of the skin the collagen containing tissue underlying the surface of the skin, wherein a temperature of the external skin surface is lower than a temperature of the underlying collagen containing tissue; and

controlling a delivery of a sufficient amount of thermal energy through an epidermis of the surface of the skin to reconfigure at least a portion of an underlying collagen containing tissue without substantially creating cell necrosis in the collagen containing tissue, wherein at least a portion of the surface of the skin is tightened.

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